

Bush cites progress towards summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Friday there has been "modest progress" towards a summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev following settlement of a dispute that had held up ratification of a treaty to reduce conventional forces in Europe. The summit had been scheduled for Moscow from Feb. 11-12 but was postponed due to preoccupation with the Gulf war and the superpowers' inability to settle their last remaining differences on a treaty to slash long-range nuclear weapons by about one-third. That accord, known as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), was in turn held up by the dispute over non-nuclear force limits in Europe. The settlement of the European forces issue, disclosed Thursday, clears the way for renewed efforts to complete the START and reschedule the summit. Friday morning, Mr. Bush told reporters that there still was no date set for the summit. But when asked if Secretary of State James Baker had made any progress towards setting it up during his recent visit to the Soviet Union, Mr. Bush replied, "modest progress." The progress was first revealed after a meeting between Mr. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh that focused primarily on Middle East issues.

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Five Iraqi police wounded in Zakho

ZAKHO (R) — Five Iraqi policemen were wounded, three seriously, when gunmen attacked Zakho police headquarters with a grenade and machinegun, the mayor of the town said Friday. Daoud Hassan Suleiman said the assailants attacked late on Thursday shortly before Iraq withdrew all but a token force of police from the town under a demand from the United States and allied soldiers who are setting up "safe havens" in the region for Kurdish refugees.

U.N. soldiers leave Cyprus for Kuwait

NICOSIA (R) — A further 80 Austrian and Danish peacekeeping soldiers left Cyprus for Kuwait Friday to join a United Nations force patrolling the Iraqi-Kuwait border, a U.N. spokesman said. Two companies totalling 230 men from the 2,300-strong United Nations force on Cyprus (UNFICYP), will be in the Gulf. An advance party of 70 peacekeepers left Cyprus Thursday and the remaining 80 soldiers will fly to Kuwait on Saturday. Unarmed U.N. observers began moving into the Iraq-Kuwait border area Wednesday to replace departing U.S. troops.

Cuomo to attack Bush policies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New York State Governor Mario Cuomo is preparing a national tour to attack President George Bush's domestic policies and what he calls the president's "fundamental lack of direction," a newspaper reported Friday. But the governor's press secretary says he is just going to travel as he has always done. Mr. Cuomo, often cited as a possible candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination next year, told the Los Angeles Times he will travel to "wherever they will give me a platform." Mr. Cuomo did not say whether he has decided to seek the presidential nomination, but noted that his party has "got to get the process started soon."

Yemeni referendum set for next month

SANAA (R) — Yemenis will vote on May 15 and 16 on a new constitution for the country, unified a year ago by the merger of South and North. State radio announced Friday that the dates had been set by presidential decree. It said voters have five more days to register. The presidential council issued a statement on Monday, calling on the people to "cast their votes on the constitution in total freedom." The statement said approval of the new constitution would "definitely revoke all laws or decrees issued by the two sectors before the merger and the setting up of the Yemen Arab Republic contradicting Sharia."

Dutch minister to visit Israel

THE HAGUE (R) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek will visit Israel on May 6 and 7 to look at ways in which the European Community can further moves for peace in the Middle East, a government spokesman said Friday. Mr. Van den Broek, whose country assumes the EC presidency on July 1, is seeking to build on discussions which he and two other EC foreign ministers held when they visited the Middle East earlier this year. Apart from meeting Israeli ministers including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Van den Broek will have talks with Palestinians who have close links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

27 million face famine in Africa

LONDON (R) — Twenty-seven million people in Africa — half of them children — now face starvation, the British-based charity Save the Children said Friday. It said it feared the African famine might be neglected because world attention was focused on the plight of Kurdish refugees.

Baker cuts short peace mission, but Bush sees 'reason for optimism'

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE James Baker Friday cut short his latest Middle East peace mission at a crucial point after his mother died. President George Bush said in Washington, however, that there was "reason for optimism" for prospects for peace in the Middle East as a result of Mr. Baker's latest round of talks in the region.

News of his mother's death interrupted a meeting between Mr. Baker and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"This of course is not the end of his mission," Mr. Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, told reporters.

Mr. Bush said in Washington he spoke to Mr. Baker Friday morning and "the bottom line is there is some reason for optimism."

The mood in Israel, however, was less upbeat. Mr. Baker said before meeting Mr. Shamir that differences on key issues remained.

Israeli foreign ministry officials said the two sides had earlier agreed on five points regarding a regional peace conference. There was no confirmation of this from the Americans.

Mr. Baker left for his home town, Houston, Texas, where his mother Bonner Baker, 96, lived. Her death cut short 3½ hours of talks with Mr. Shamir in which Mr. Baker hoped to bridge wide differences between Israelis and Arabs on the format of a regional peace conference.

"Mr. Baker received the news of his mother's death in a telephone call which arrived in the middle of his talks with the prime minister," Mr. Pazner said.

"He went into another room and spoke with his sister in the United States and decided on the spot to return to the United States."

The secretary of state left without speaking to reporters. Mr. Pazner said nothing had been agreed in the meeting with Mr. Shamir because of the interruption.

Mr. Baker has given me some answers to some of the questions that I left here when I departed. Some of those answers I think we can work with. Others we will have difficulty with, quite frankly," Mr. Baker said, standing beside Mr. Levy.

Mr. Baker said he had agreed to keep working with the Israelis "to see if we can create a process that would lead to direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and Palestinians and between Israel

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. to take over allied camps in northern Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations will take over within days the refugee camps established by the United States and its allies in northern Iraq, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar met Thursday evening with Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Abari to discuss the timing of the transfer.

As he entered the United Nations Friday morning, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters that the U.N. takeover "is more than a possibility. We intend to take over as soon as possible. We are working on it."

"It is a question of days," he added.

A U.S. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it would probably take weeks to complete the transfer, but that the first U.N. staffers would be at Zakho in days.

Iraq and the allies have agreed that only 50 Iraqi policemen will

remain in the northern town of Zakho. All Iraqi soldiers have left the town, along with most police.

The presence of Iraqi security forces in the Zakho area was deterring the Kurds from leaving their mountain strongholds and going home, U.N. officials said.

The United Nations and Iraq signed an agreement last week that the world body would administer all relief operations in the country. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has a team in Iraq this week to begin setting up U.N. camps.

The refugees represent about half Iraq's Kurdish population.

In Washington, President George Bush said Friday that he was confident Iraq will honour its word to keep its troops out of the Kurdish refugee zone.

Mr. Bush, who made his comments during a brief question-

(Continued on page 5)

Pipebomb injures Israeli soldier

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

A pipe-bomb exploded, wounding an Israeli soldier, and troops shot and wounded two Palestinians during protests Friday in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Military officials said the army clamped a curfew on Hebron after the soldier was injured in the blast near the market.

In Nabi, an 11-year-old Palestinian was shot in the head and another resident was shot in the leg during stone-throwing demonstrations, hospital officials said.

The U.N. agency looking after Palestinian refugees said Friday it was concerned about the welfare of its staff in the Gaza Strip amid growing violence and the brutal killing of one of its teachers.

In a statement issued at its Vienna headquarters, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) said the teacher, Mohammad Younis Ghattas, was stabbed 11 times by masked men in broad daylight at an agency-run school in Khan Younis camp.

Iraq lifts travel ban, disbands Popular Army

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Iraqi government Friday lifted a ban on travel for Iraqis and disbanded the Baath Party militia, known as the Popular Army, which had mobilised during the Gulf crisis.

In a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the government also ruled that Iraqis wishing to travel abroad would be allowed to do so as of May 15.

It said President Saddam Hussein had notified the concerned authorities of the decision.

The brief announcement, however, did not say if travellers would still need to obtain exit permits before they are allowed to leave Iraq. These permits, issued by the Interior Ministry, were a requirement for all Iraqis and expatriates wishing to travel out before the travel ban was imposed.

The ban was ordered in the early days of the Gulf crisis when Iraq began mobilising its 17 million population to face the U.S.-led coalition forces that poured into the Gulf after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

INA said Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, would lead a "comprehensive drive to repair and improve the telephone services in all parts of Iraq."

(Continued on page 5)



A scene from Friday's match between Al Faisali and Al Ramtha

FAISALI WINS SIXTH TITLE: Al Faisali Club

Friday won its sixth Cup Winners' Cup after defeating Al Ramtha club 3-1 in a match held at Al Hussein Youth City's Stadium as this year's soccer season opened. Al Faisali's goals in the match, which was attended by more than 7,000, were scored by Jirees Tadros (two) and Firas Al Khalilah while Al Ramtha's only goal was scored by Khalid Al Aqqouri. The championship is held annually between the winners of the Jordanian

League Championship and the Jordan Cup Championship. Al Ramtha is last year's winner of the Cup Winners' Cup, the Soccer Federation Shield and Jordan's cup championships while Al Faisali is the holder of the league championship for last year. At the end of Friday's match, Youth Minister Khalid Al Karaki handed over the cup to Al Faisali's captain and distributed medals to members of both teams.

Talabani says long talks ahead with government

SHAQLAWA, Iraq (Agencies)

— The Kurdish rebel who led autonomy talks with the Iraqi government says key obstacles still stand in the way of an agreement to end the Kurdish rebellion.

"There has been no agreement yet, only the start of negotiations," said Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), on return to rebel headquarters here Thursday night.

Mr. Talabani headed a four-party Kurdish delegation to Baghdad this week that won an agreement in principle from the Iraqi government for increased Kurdish autonomy.

Mr. Talabani said the government had indicated readiness to meet Kurdish demands for "autonomy and a democratic, pluralistic, multi-party society, freedom of expression and respect for human rights."

Mr. Talabani said further talks face three main obstacles: the extent of the territory that would

be autonomous, the extent of self-rule and the region's relations with the outside world.

Disputes over the size of the Kurdish territory and the extent of its independence undermined the 1970 autonomy on which the current talks are based.

Mr. Talabani said in a statement issued in Damascus that "We cannot put our trust in Saddam Hussein and we refuse to negotiate with the one who has destroyed Iraq and humiliated the Iraqis."

"At the same time, we support any step that would end the catastrophe that has befallen the Iraqis," added Ayatollah Mudareesi, head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

Mr. Talabani said the government had indicated readiness to meet Kurdish demands for "autonomy and a democratic, pluralistic, multi-party society, freedom of expression and respect for human rights."

Both Washington and London said they welcomed the agreement in principle and were awaiting full details of the accord.

Mr. Talabani said the Kurds and the government will meet again next week to present detailed proposals in writing.

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. delays meeting on Iraqi request

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council's Sanctions Committee has postponed, probably until next Tuesday, a meeting to resume consideration of a request by Iraq for permission to sell nearly \$1 billion worth of oil to badly needed food and other items.

The committee first took up the Iraqi request last Friday, without reaching any decision, and had been expected to meet again this Friday.

But the meeting was postponed and a member of the Austrian U.N. delegation, which chairs the committee, said it would probably take place next Tuesday.

It is widely believed the Iraqi request will not be approved until or unless Security Council members are satisfied with Baghdad's actions relating to the Kurdish crisis.

The council is also awaiting a satisfactory accounting of Iraq's nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic capability, in accordance with a ceasefire resolution adopted on April 3.

Iraq sent details of these last Friday to the U.N. secretary general and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

But the United States took issue with Baghdad's statement that had no biological weapons programme and asserted Iraq had omitted key aspects of its nuclear programme.

In a letter dated April 14 to the chairman of the Sanctions Com-

mittee, the U.N. security council said the Saudis who dominate the GCC will keep an open mind towards cooperation with Iran.

Iran's coastline runs the entire length of the eastern Gulf. With Oman, it dominates the waterway's strategic gateway at the Straits of Hormuz.

So-called moderates in Iran, headed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, are seeking better ties with the Saudis as they try to bolster their position as a regional power at the expense of Iraq.

Mr. Rafsanjani is scheduled to visit Syria on Saturday and Turkey on Monday.

The proposed GCC security plan would include the use of tens of thousands of Egyptian and Syrian troops to protect the region from a future crisis like Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Friday named the country's prosecutor-general of intelligence in charge of internal security, was announced on Tehran Radio.

A hardline newspaper suggested Saudi pressure had forced the resignation of Ayatollah Khamenei's first choice for the job — Ahmad Khomeini, son of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Hardliners opposed to President Rafsanjani criticised the resumption of ties with Saudi Arabia, denounced by Iran for inviting U.S. troops after Iraq seized Kuwait.

The government, which froze all martial law provisions in early 1990 before drafting new legislation and abolishing military courts altogether last year, has said that case related to

Tabloid publisher in detention over Petra Bank affair

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Investigations were continuing over the weekend into a case involving a Jordanian weekly tabloid whose publisher was detained on Thursday on charges of seeking to publish material related to the Petra Bank affair.

Dr. Riyad Hroub, chairman of the board of directors and publisher of the Arabic-language Shisham weekly, was detained in the early hours of Thursday, minutes before this week's edition of the tabloid was to go into print with what was described as an interview with former Petra Bank chairman and general manager Ahmad Chalabi.

It was the first case of a publisher being detained on charges related to publication of material after Jordan adopted a wide liberalisation drive and launched a democratisation process in 1989. It was not immediately clear in the case of Shisham whether the authorities had used martial law provisions, which are still applicable in the case of Petra Bank.

The real negotiations will begin then, when we start discussing each side's concepts of autonomy," he added.

The second round of talks will be led by the other main Kurdish leader, Masoud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), who did not take part in the initial discussions.

Mr. Barzani's role indicates

rare Kurdish unity in the current struggle with Baghdad. He and Mr. Talabani are historic rivals who in the past often quarrelled or fought.

Mr. Barzani said the first

round of talks in Baghdad was "very positive... everything is ok so far. You can say I am happy."

Mr. Talabani said the Kurds have reservations about trusting the government to the failure of earlier agreements.

But he said the rebel leaders think an agreement would

Rebuilding of devastated hospital in Karbala gains momentum

Jordanian volunteers lead reconstruction work

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

The writer has just returned after a three-week stay in Iraq.

KARBALA'S AL HUSSEIN Hospital used to serve one million people. During the Shiite rebellion which followed the end of the Gulf war the hospital which had survived relatively unscathed throughout the allied aggression was rendered all-but useless.

Beds, equipment, medicines were destroyed; walls inside the wards are pock-marked with bullet holes, some at waist-height implying that patients were shot in their beds. Windows are smashed and there are holes in walls and ceilings from mortar bombs.

Blood-stained rubble has been swept up and retrievable equipment is heaped into cleared rooms.

Cats creep around the 400-bed building that can now only offer first aid and limited medical assistance for emergency children's cases.

Middle East Action Network (MEAN) has, in the words of Sadallah Atrib, the founder and chairman of MEAN, "adopted the rebuilding and reequipping of the hospital of Karbala as its first project at a cost of approximately \$2 million to \$2.5 million."

Last week five Jordanian volunteers, all members of MEAN, visited the Shiite Holy City, 90 minutes drive from Baghdad, to deliver donated food, medicines and four generators, and to assess the hospital's requirements.

With the generators, the hospital is the only place in Karbala to have electricity.

The MEAN team was joined by the Gulf Peace Team, Peace Action Network of Japan and the Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT), an India-based organisation. All the groups are involved with the Karbala project and will cooperate with MEAN on its other projects.

One of the MEAN volunteers, Ahmad Abu Zeid, 49, an "electro-mechanical" engineer, said, "It doesn't matter

who destroyed the hospital, the fact is that it has been destroyed and the people are suffering. We feel it is our duty to help the Iraqi people."

Ahmad Najib Rashdan, a civil engineer who graduated from Baghdad University, said: "MEAN chose the Karbala hospital as its first project because the people and officials of Karbala helped the Gulf Peace Team a lot in November and we had to start somewhere."

The Gulf Peace Team set up an international camp on the Iraq-Kuwait border in a determined effort to avert war and to provoke opposition in their native countries to the use of force to get Iraqi troops out of Kuwait which it occupied on Aug. 2 last year.

Looking forward to the completion of the Karbala hospital, which is expected to take two months, Mr. Rashdan continued, "This is not the only hospital to be destroyed; it is the same over all of south Iraq, and those that were not destroyed are without equipment, medicines, power supply and even water. Our next plan is to rebuild a Basra hospital, especially because cholera and disease are expected to reach epidemic proportions there."

Cholera is caught through drinking contaminated water. In Basra, where the Shiite rebellion started, residents are forced to use water from the river, or wherever else they can find it. One hundred and fifteen cases of cholera have been confirmed there and four children have died from the disease. Seven cases were reported in Karbala and one child is dead; four confirmed cases in Baghdad and there are many suspected cases in the north.

Abu Zeid, with the other four volunteers nodding in agreement, said: "Even for war there are rules. If you are fighting you should fight against fighting forces, you shouldn't kill the people by

cutting their power, water and food supply and destroying the sewage system."

The volunteers have taken leave from their jobs in Jordan and are relying on their savings to cover the expenses of their families while they are away.

Mr. Rashdan explained how the project works: "We will work on a temporary basis — for example one month in Iraq, one month in Jordan. We are the first of many engineers who will come. When we are working in Jordan we will also be spending our time contacting people for supplying money, equipment and other aid."

Volunteers, including engineers, technicians and skilled labourers, are expected to be in Iraq after two weeks with supplies of building materials to supplement a truck-load of cement and iron bars, electric cables and fans that was taken to Karbala last week. Work on the hospital will then start in earnest.

"Work will be on the interior of the hospital and the facades, windows, doors, plastering damaged by bullets and explosion, ceilings, floors, air-conditioning and repainting, as well as furniture for the hospital. Luckily the main structure is still intact," said Mr. Rashdan.

Jihad Gharaibeh said: "The main problem is medical equipment and instruments."

Mr. Gharaibeh, a lawyer, volunteered to go to Iraq with MEAN to see the damage for himself to be better able to motivate professional people like himself to offer material or physical support for the people of Iraq through the network's projects.

"Jordan is a small, poor country. Jordanians have already given what they have, but we are expecting more," said the lawyer.

There is greater urgency to rebuild hospitals and water purification centres in the south of Iraq as the fiery hot summer is almost upon the southern regions whereas the north of the country is cooler and river water cleaner because it is upstream.



A blood bag ripped from the patient hangs on the wall of Al Hussein Hospital in Karbala (photo by Mariam Shahin)

Speaking at a press conference in Amman Friday, Sadallah urged people everywhere "not to let the people, especially the children of Iraq, feel they are on their own. Help us to help these people have the basic things in life — baby milk, a hospital, drinkable water. Unfortunately they have nothing and it seems that most people overseas are sleeping."

Abu Zeid said: "The hospital requires pumps for water to be pumped to the elevated tanks, and no pumps are working now; they need the air-conditioning system. It is not a luxury. It is required; medical gases are another urgent necessity."

Sadallah said a truck of empty cylinders was expected in Amman soon. It will contain 500 to 1,000 empty cylinders

which will be refilled in Amman with oxygen for the hospital, he said.

Ramananda Avadhuta of AMURT told the press conference that his organisation had taken a decision "that whatever is needed we are prepared to accomplish and I don't think there will be any problem finishing the Karbala hospital very soon. After that we will be taking up the hospital of Basra."

The Indian relief worker said AMURT had also decided to sponsor all the children who have lost their parents. "We will take the responsibility and feed them for five years or ten years — whatever is needed," he said.

Pointing to pictures of the hospital, sick and injured children and aid arriving in Karbala, Sadallah said:

"We can help some of these children by sending them overseas to have plastic surgery. In the U.S. they have asked for billions of dollars to stage a war, they got it. We are asking for peanuts to give life and I'm sure we will have it because I'm sure there are a lot of good people around the world ready to help. We have a programme to send about 570 injured for treatment abroad: 120 to Germany, 150 to Austria and 300 to Tunisia. Beds have been arranged. We are sponsoring 2,500 children at a rate of \$30 to \$40 a month. We are trying to build some orphanages in Iraq: One in the north, one in the south and we are trying to make knitting factories for widows of Iraq who unfortunately are countless these days."

Carter: Gulf war had no winners but Mideast lost



Jimmy Carter

Kuwaitis leave emirate rather than stay to rebuild

KUWAIT (R) — Many Kuwaitis can't wait to leave their country less than two months after a massive allied military operation ended the Iraqi occupation.

Despite official appeals to stay and help with the mammoth task of reconstruction after the devastation of the Gulf war, many Kuwaitis are planning to go abroad temporarily, or emigrate.

About half the 200,000 citizens who stayed in the tiny emirate during Iraq's seven-month occupation have left since a U.S.-led force recaptured it in late February, Kuwaitis say.

Still more are ready to go.

Hundreds queue every day at Kuwait Airways offices seeking tickets while travellers tell of long lines of cars at the border with Saudi Arabia.

"I have been coming here for three days," shouted an angry Kuwaiti woman as a Kuwait Airways official allowed only a handful of customers into the office. "I want a ticket now, I want to go see my children. Can't you understand?" she shouted.

In the coming weeks the oil-rich emirate plans to bring home tens of thousands of its 400,000 citizens still in exile to help in the reconstruction effort.

But officials said many are expected to stay abroad, especially

those with school-age children.

Some Kuwaitis who endured the occupation consider they have paid the state their dues by putting up with the Iraqis and now deserve a break while the authorities battle with restoring water supplies, power, telephones and other services.

Others, on home leave from universities abroad, were trapped when Iraq swept in on Aug. 2 and want to study again. Some want to be reunited with families abroad who fled the occupation and a few said they would rather emigrate to Canada.

Kuwaitis once enjoyed one of the world's highest per capita incomes in a welfare state.

Diplomats say many Kuwaitis are reluctant to tackle the manual work of cleaning up the once-pristine capital. Menial jobs have traditionally been done by armies of Asian and non-Kuwaiti Arab labourers who fled during the occupation.

With the help of expatriate workers, officials say basic services for some 1.2 million people — about half the country's original population — could be restored by September.

"I do not think we are more than 100,000 Kuwaitis now. Everyone has left since the libera-

tion. People needed a break from the Iraqis," said a young government employee.

An older employee said many more would leave next week. "You see, the government announced it will pay us four months salary on Sunday," she said. "The minute the people get the money, they will just leave. I'm going to Cairo," she added.

The new post-war government announced plans to start bringing home exiled Kuwaitis next month. Kuwait Airways is mounting an airlift from May 11 to bring back up to 75,000 free of charge.

The government earlier

announced plans to start bringing home exiled Kuwaitis next month. Kuwait Airways is mounting an airlift from May 11 to bring back up to 75,000 free of charge.

Many Kuwaitis, in line with a long-kept tradition, may stay abroad for the summer. To discourage them from doing so, the government said it would stop paying Kuwaiti exiles monthly allowances as of June.

Since the invasion, Kuwait, drawing from its large foreign investments of about \$100 billion, has been granting Kuwaitis abroad generous amounts of money to pay for rent, food and a comfortable lifestyle.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq denies Baghdad holding Kuwaitis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq's U.N. envoy on Thursday denied Baghdad was still detaining Kuwaitis abducted during the Gulf war or holding onto Kuwaiti government property. "They (the Kuwaitis) are simply making false claims for reasons of their own but they have not provided proof or evidence," Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told reporters. "We don't want to see any Kuwaiti face in Iraq, I'll tell you that," he added. Mr. Anbari was speaking after a meeting with Security Council President Paul Nitze dae of Belgium who questioned him about complaints from Kuwait that Iraq had not accounted for more than 5,000 detainees and some Kuwaiti property. Under Security Council resolution setting terms for a Gulf ceasefire, Iraq is required to release to the International Committee of the Red Cross all captured war prisoners or citizens from Kuwait or their remains. It is also required to return bank notes, coins and government papers taken to Baghdad after Iraq occupied the emirate on Aug. 2.

War cost may reach \$100 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. cost of the Gulf war may reach \$100 billion and contributions from allies will cover only about half of that, Congress' chief auditor said Thursday. Previous war cost estimates have run as high as \$70.5 billion, but U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher told the Senate Armed Services Committee he believed costs "will ultimately total as much as \$100 billion." He said that includes \$50 billion for raising, equipping and maintaining the 500,000-strong war force; \$40 billion for war operations themselves, and another \$10 billion in other costs, including forgiveness of \$7 billion of Egyptian debt in exchange for Egypt's participation in the war. Mr. Bowsher, head of Congress's General Accounting Office, said allies had paid about \$35 billion as of last week of the \$85 billion they pledged for U.S. war costs. "Assuming the outstanding pledges of \$19 billion are ultimately received, allied contributions will have covered about half the war's cost," Mr. Bowsher said.

Glaspie said to resign

WASHINGTON (R) — April Glaspie, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq accused of acquiescing to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's plans to invade Kuwait, is resigning from the State Department, CNN reported Thursday. Cable News Network quoted State Department and congressional sources as saying Ms. Glaspie was planning to take a university teaching job. She could not be reached for comment and a State Department spokesman could not confirm the report. "We have heard nothing about that," he said. Ms. Glaspie came under fire after Iraq released a transcript of a July 25, 1990, meeting with President Saddam in which she appeared meek in replying to his intentions to use military force to defend his claims against Kuwait. A week later, Iraq invaded. Ms. Glaspie returned to Washington and for seven months remained silent about what happened. But in March she testified to a congressional committee that she had clearly warned President Saddam that the United States would defend its vital interests. The State Department has refused to make public its official transcript of the meeting with President Saddam, although it claims the Iraqi version is incorrect.

Menem welcomes frigate back from Gulf

BUENOS AIRES (R) — President Carlos Menem have an emotional welcome to the crew of an Argentine frigate that returned on Thursday from the Gulf after serving in the allied force that fought Iraq. Mr. Menem joined some 2,000 cheering relatives and friends of the 200 men who returned on the Almirante Brown missile-armed frigate to the navy's main naval base at Puerto Belgrano, 600 kilometres south of Buenos Aires. "The talent and the efficiency of these sailors turned them into a symbol of this Argentina that is finding its own place in a world which no longer admits unjustified aggressions, violence or sheer force for its own sake," he said in a televised speech. Argentina was the only Latin American country to commit troops to the allied force.

Soviet pilot asks for asylum in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A Soviet Armenian pilot has asked for asylum in Turkey after flying a military transport helicopter across the frontier to the eastern town of Erzurum, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Friday. Foreign Ministry officials told the agency that the pilot, from the Soviet Republic of Armenia, was being questioned but gave no details on his asylum request. Soviet TASS news agency earlier on Thursday gave the airman's name as Lieutenant-Navigator I. Gimato, whom it said took off from an airfield in the southern Transcaucasus district on Wednesday and flew his MI-8 helicopter across the border.

Troops end Afghan sit-in in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese troops broke up a sit-in by Afghan refugees at the Beirut office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Wednesday. Troops pushed about 15 Afghans out of the office at the end of the six-hour protest. The Afghans said the U.N. agency had failed to help them and demanded it ask the Lebanese authorities to provide them with an empty building to live in. A similar protest by the Afghans on Tuesday was broken up by police, witnesses reported. "We are not terrorists or killers," said protest organiser Abdullah Bathari, a former pharmacist.

Fadlallah urges U.S. to press Israel

BEIRUT (R) — The spiritual mentor of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) said Friday Washington should press Israel to free released. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said in a sermon at Friday prayers in Beirut's southern suburbs: "We hear lots of talk, emotional, humanitarian and political, on the Western hostages. The whole world talks about them emotionally. Each day they show us on television the wife of this captive, the children of that hostage to arouse emotions...but why this discrimination between the captives? 'Why don't we remember that Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a clergyman who lived with the oppressed at his village, has a wife missing him like the wives of other captives, children like the Israeli commandos from his home in South Lebanon on July 28, 1989.'

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary

19:00 News in French

19:15 French varieties

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 No Job for a Lady

21:00 Encounter

22:00 News in English

22:20 Feature film: "Sadic and Son"

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:33 Dhuhr

16:12 Asr

19:17 Magrib

20:41 'Isha'

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 623740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623393, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772511

S. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assumption International Church Tel. 605326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952

The Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

Min/Jmax temp.

15/26

20/33

14/30

18/32

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

258 students honoured for distinguished voluntary work

AMMAN (Petra) — Prizes for the 1991 Crown Prince Hassan Award were distributed Thursday to 258 male and female students from Ministry of Education schools, youth centres, community colleges and universities.

A total of 54 students received silver medals and the rest received bronze medals in recognition of their distinguished voluntary work to serve the local community, to protect the environment and to conduct scientific research work.

Prizes were also assigned for those who excelled in various skills like music, chess playing, sports events, scouting and other similar endeavours.

Minister of Education Abdul-

lah Al Akaleh distributed the prizes to the winners at a ceremony held at the International Baccalaureate School in the presence of Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal, members of the board of trustees of the Prince Hassan Award and relatives of the participating students.

The minister delivered a speech on the occasion paying tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan for their deep concern over the educational process in Jordan and their concern for developing the abilities of the youth in serving their country and nation.

A total of 3,300 students have so far taken part in competitions to win the Crown Hassan Award.



PRINCESS ALIA OPENS EXHIBITION:

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Thursday opened a week-long exhibition of dried flowers at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman with the proceeds benefitting Iraqi children. The exhibition by Hind Kurdi displays 20 paintings and 20 dried flower arrangements as

well as 100 cards enveloped in dried flowers. The artist said the materials used in the exhibition could be found in any house and could be used in various artistic types of work. She said she would hold another exhibition of flowers in the coming year, with the proceeds to benefit the people in the southern regions of Jordan.

Charity organisation holds courses for camp women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Human Appeal carried out first courses of social training for women in the Women's Rehabilitation Centre in Al Hussain Camp with the participation of 30 girls from the camp in cooperation with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) and vocational training centres.

Human Appeal a charity organisation, and UNRWA are financing these courses in all camps and supervising the courses proceeding in accordance with the programme designed for that, while the vocational training centres secure lecturers and training materials.

Latest \$425m loan brings Japan's total economic aid to Jordan to \$1,314m

Jordan, Japan sign loan agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's ambassador to Japan Thursday signed an agreement under which Japan will grant the Kingdom a loan totalling \$425 million, which carries an annual interest of one per cent and is payable over 20 years, with a 10-year grace period, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the loan would be used for the purchase of commodities and services from Japan, and noted that the first instalment of the loan, which is almost half of the amount, would be available to the Kingdom before the end of April.

The loan agreement was initialled in Amman, on April 11, by Japan's Ambassador to the Kingdom Tadayuki Nonoyama and Minister of Planning Khaled Azzam Abdullah, and it was announced that the soft loan was

aimed at supporting Jordan's national economy which sustained serious losses from the Gulf crisis.

Together with the present commodity loan, the total amount of Japan's financial aid to Jordan, to cope with the economic impact of the Gulf crisis, has now reached \$700 million, including \$250 million offered last year.

In addition, Japan provided over \$60 million to international organisations for relief operations for the evacuees, mainly conducted in Jordan, and \$1.1 million worth of blankets, tents, food, medicine and kerosene stoves to Jordan in emergency aid for the evacuees.

The cumulative total of Japan's economic aid to Jordan so far, including soft loans, grants and technical assistance, amounts to nearly \$1,314 million.

U.N. project to be extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — A U.N.-sponsored project for the development of human resources has been extended to last until 1994, and a decision has been taken to set up a steering committee, grouping representatives of the concerned department, to draw up an integrated strategy to meet the future demands.

The decisions came at a meeting attended by representatives of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the U.N. Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan.

A general review was made of the progress on the project, which was started two years ago, and of the studies and research work conducted in the field of human resources in Jordan, under this programme, over the past two years.

Authorities involved in the implementation of the two-year project prepared studies and reports about such issues as unemployment and migration and their effect on Jordan, the country's economic restructuring program.

me, the role of women in development, the labour market.

Participants in Wednesday's meeting reviewed progress on the creation of a data bank to provide information about the labour force, the labour market in Jordan and other related topics as well as studies on means of dealing with the growing number of unemployment in Jordan, a problem aggravated by the return here of Jordanian expatriates.

A noted economist said in a statement published Wednesday that unemployment in Jordan was entrenched in the structure of the Jordanian society, and the Jordanians were bound to suffer from higher rates of unemployment in the years to come.

Jawad Al Anani, who had served as Minister of Industry and Trade, said that the Kingdom was in need of JD 1 billion in investments annually to achieve a balance between the increase in the labour force and the required capital formation.

The U.N.-sponsored project entails training and developing the efficiency of the human resources involved in research and study in the field of the labour force.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

* Exhibition of fine handicrafts, weavings, quilts, on Friday, at the Abu Jaber estate-Yadouneh (open: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.)

* Dried flowers exhibition by Hind Kurdi Nuweirah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

* German film entitled "Schlacht um Berlin" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Flights picking up steadily

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While most sectors are gradually resuming their pre-war activities, so too are some international air carriers who suspended their Middle Eastern destinations mostly because of the high insurance

rate. Air France, which began flying again early in April, "has destinations to Damascus and Paris from Amman," Rafiq Sakhad, Air France's assistant manager said.

Though Egypt Air stopped operating flights from Jan. 15 until the end of the month, "we have resumed the three weekly flights since Feb. 1," an Egypt Air official said. Plans for expansion will begin on June 1 with daily flights to Cairo.

Other Arab air carriers which resumed their flights to Amman include Saudi Airlines, Gulf Air and Yemen Airways.

British Airways, on the other hand, have no plans for the next six months, although there is an agreement with Royal Jordanian (RJ) to fly the London-Amman-London route, Manager of British Airways Raul Twal, told the Jordan Times. "There are no in-

dications that British Airways will resume flights to Amman because the RJ agreement is satisfactory," Mr. Twal said. British Airways stopped operations in Amman on March, before the Gulf war, for commercial reasons.

Most air carriers however, stopped their operations in the Middle East because of the increased risk factor in the war zone and the passenger surcharge — a premium of \$250 per passenger.

"We stopped operating on Jan. 10 because it was not profitable," said an official at the Turkish Airlines. "Now it is not known when we will resume our operations because there is a general strike with Austria Airlines which will fly our passengers instead."

Lufthansa, the German Airlines, which had regular flights to Jordan before Jan. 14, is still uncertain about when flights will begin again. "It is definitely not going to be before the summer," an official said.

Other international airlines, like KLM, the Dutch airlines, and Alitalia, are also uncertain.

"KLM suspended its flights for economic reasons and not because of the war," explained an official. "We had losses worldwide and we had to suspend flights to 15 other des-

tinations," said the official.

The business is not yet there for KLM to resume flying to Jordan, but it does not mean that KLM is not coming back, the official said stressing that RJ has agreed to carry all passengers to Amsterdam.

Alitalia is still receiving all the technical information, but one official said that by next month the airlines will operate again.

Swissair, however, has no plans of returning. "It has nothing to do with the insurance rate," said the Swissair area manager. "We stopped the Jordanian and Damascus route on Oct. 10, and instead we might have a joint venture with Austria Airlines which will fly our passengers instead."

Of the Eastern European airlines, Aeroflot did not stop its flights. "We did not see a necessity although we had a problem with the insurance," an official said. Aeroflot is currently flying once a week to Moscow, but in the summer "we plan to work with RJ to add another flight weekly," he said.

Though some airline officials believe that there will be a comeback shortly after the summer, others say most airlines will not return before the end of the year.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman is to temporarily host the U.N. regional office for Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and Far East which has its permanent base in Baghdad, in accordance with an announcement here Wednesday.

Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh said Jordan welcomed the decision by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to which the regional office is affiliated, and said that the Kingdom would do all it can to promote cooperation with various Arab and foreign countries and organisations in the two regions to promote agricultural projects.

in the Near East with the purpose of helping eliminate animal diseases and discovering infections before the disease is allowed to spread," Mr. Dasouqi said at the meeting.

During the meeting, which was attended by several U.N. officials, a general review was made on FAO's contributions to the countries of the Arab region.

"FAO is keen on offering any help related to animal husbandry and livestock production," said Mr. Dasouqi.

Most of the Arab states are members of the regional office which groups representatives of 27 countries.

U.N. office moved to Amman

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ICRC tracing system brings relief to families of expatriates

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Dozens of anxious women and children flock to the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Amman every day seeking news of their loved ones in Kuwait through a tracing system set up by the ICRC and to send or receive messages.

In the absence of direct telecommunications with Kuwait, and in view of the non-availability of visas to visit the emirate, the only option available to family members is to seek ICRC help to know whether their relatives are alive, in prison, in hospital or "missing" altogether.

The lucky ones get to know of the whereabouts of their relatives and friends in a matter of three to four weeks, but there are hundreds for whom the process takes months.

"In some cases the message

that we receive is only a few words: 'The person is well, and at so and so place,'" said Mr. Schroeder.

"But that is a great comfort for the anxious family member," he said.

A 45-year-old woman, who identified herself only as Um Hussein, said her two sons — Hussein and Ahmad — were in Kuwait for five years before the invasion. "Now I know that Hussein is in a Kuwaiti jail, but his health is alright," Um Hussein told the Jordan Times as she was walking out of the ICRC office.

"But I have no idea where Ahmad is; nor does Hussein," said the woman, wiping her tears. "I hope the foreigners in there would be able to get me some information on how and where Ahmad is," she gestured to the ICRC office. "They have been very kind," she added.

There are hundreds of others who have yet to hear of their relatives and family members.

"I approached the Red Cross in January seeking the whereabouts of my father," said 22-year-old Ajmad. "I waited for three months, but I got no information. Now I come here very often rather

than wait at home to hear from them (the ICRC)," he said.

Mr. Schroeder said it was almost impossible to get any information on "missing" people during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. "But the situation has changed now," he said.

It is relatively easy to trace a Kuwaiti resident if he or she is imprisoned in the emirate since the ICRC has an almost full list of persons detained there following the end of the Gulf war. ICRC officials also visit almost 700 prisoners every day in Kuwait.

But it is a little more time-consuming for others since, more often than not, the only available detail is a telephone number, and the Kuwaiti telephone system is in total shambles.

The concern of families, particularly in Jordan and the occupied territories, hit a peak when reports of Kuwaiti "revenge attacks" were reported against Jordanians and Palestinians for what was perceived as their "collaboration" with the Iraqi army during the seven-month occupation of the emirate.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said that over 200 people were tortured and killed after the war by armed Kuwaiti elements, including members of the emirate's security forces. Middle East Watch, an American human rights organisation, said about 40 people were confirmed killed.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights watchdog, expressed alarm over the situation, and, in response, Kuwaiti government officials said they were adopting measures to check arbitrary measures against foreign residents of Kuwait.

Ms. Spinatch said there were only "three or four cases" where the ICRC had traced missing people to prison in Kuwait. And no cases of death have been reported to families through the ICRC, she said.

Jordan, EC consider extending, increasing 4th financial protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prospects for extending and increasing the fourth financial and technical protocol between Jordan and the European Community (EC) was discussed here by Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Safwan Touqan and EC delegate Christian Falkowski, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Agreement was reached in principle on defining sectors which would benefit from EC grants and loans to the Kingdom.

The agency quoted Mr. Touqan as saying, following the meeting at the Ministry of Planning, that tentative agreement was reached by the two sides to give priority to the development of the

Kingdom's water resources, exports and education in addition to tourism, environment and training of non-skilled Jordanians in various trades to help curb the problem of unemployment.

The total amount of the fourth protocol, which is still to be signed in Brussels, in the second part of this year, is estimated at 126 million European Currency Units (ECUs), or nearly \$165 million, covering the period 1992 to 1996, Petra said.

Last February, Jordan received about 165 million from the EC as part of assistance to offset the losses the Kingdom sustained as a result of its adherence to international sanctions against Iraq.

The fourth protocol, which will be signed in Brussels, entails a soft loan of 80 million ECUs, from the European Investment Bank, while the rest will come in the form of grants.

The aid agreement followed an assessment of Jordan which was most affected by the Gulf crisis and particularly by the economic embargo on Iraq, according to an EC press release. It said that the EC was concerned that the Jordanian economy, already burdened by foreign debts of \$8 billion, had suffered seriously since August 1990.

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Mr. Kanaan noted that the AYF's strategy in the area of fund-raising, in cooperation with the Hashemite Charity, will not be restricted to a specific period of time, but will continue until the end of the year.

During Friday's meeting, which was chaired by representative of the AYF's Chairman Abdullah Kanaan, the Board of Trustees assigned an ad hoc committee to take the necessary steps to prepare lists of the general assembly members and supervise

the debate of the statutes.

The board also decided to request the AYF branches to nominate a member for each branch to act as an observer on the Board of Trustees.

In another development, Mr. Kanaan, earlier had contacts with the Jordanian Olympic Committee to raise contributions to the southern regions of Jordan. The committee has agreed to hold a sports tournament of va-

rious games. Revenues from such games would go to the benefit of people in the southern regions of Jordan who were affected by the floods that swept the region in

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Baker cuts short mission

(Continued from page 1) Mr. Baker that Israel would retain the right to veto re-opening the conference, said the officials.

Mr. Baker has won agreement from Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh to co-sponsor such talks within the framework of a regional conference.

Mr. Bessmertnykh is soon to tour the Middle East. There are reports he will visit Israel and Jordan, but he has refused to confirm them.

Arab states still demand U.N. participation. Israel wants a ceremonial opening to the conference which would then break up into direct talks between it and Arab states. It also rules out participation by the United Nations and Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem.

Israeli officials said the U.S. and Israel had agreed on four other points besides Soviet cosponsorship.

They are:

— Agreement to a European role in the conference, the exact role to be worked out when Mr. Levy meets European Community (EC) leaders in Brussels in mid-May.

The regional conference will have no authority to reach or impose decisions.

— Israel and other parties have veto power over the conference reconvening to hear progress reports on negotiations.

— Israel wants the conference to lead to direct talks and cover issues such as water, economic development and arms reduction.

Israeli officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Mr. Levy told Mr. Baker Israel was "weighing sympathetically" European participation in the peace talks.

In another "concession," the Israeli government would consider having the opening conference called back into session from time to time while the Arabs and Israelis negotiate directly over their differences, the sources said. However, Mr. Levy told

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Tabloid publisher in detention

(Continued from page 1)

Petra Bank would be the only package that would be tried by military judges, and that a blanket lifting of martial law would follow immediately after the cases have been tried.

Banking circles said the loss incurred by Petra Bank, once the second largest Jordanian com-

mercial bank, would not be less than JD 400 million. Over 50 per cent of this amount has been pumped in by the CBJ to keep the institution afloat before ordering its liquidation.

Asked if Iraq's word was good, Bush said, "Our forces are there to make sure that it's good."

"They don't want to tangle with the U.S. again," Mr. Bush said.

Consequently they say that the United Nations cannot formally take charge while U.S. and allied troops are on base without another resolution, which Washington is hesitant to sponsor because of possible objections from the Soviet Union and China.

Iraqi Ambassador Anbari said

Thursday that U.N. personnel were needed for reassurance to the Kurds but argued that their numbers need not be large.

In contrast, France has been pushing for a huge number of United Nations personnel stationed in every hamlet in northern Iraq to provide relief aid as well as an international presence.

"A lot still needs to be thought out," said a senior U.N. official. "Right now there are Kurds coming back to Iraq but not many are flooding into anyone's camp and the first tent is not even finished."

Western diplomats said they thought a U.N. takeover of the camps would be more gradual, beginning with the staff from the U.N. Children's Fund, followed

U.N. to take over allied camps

(Continued from page 1)

and answer session at the White House, said, "We're not looking for any fight," and that he does not expect a confrontation with Iraqi forces.

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Talabani

(Continued from page 1)

Kurds fleeing for the borders of neighbouring states.

"We're facing a tragedy and we do not want to be confronted with a new Armenian diaspora," he said, referring to people dispersed from their homeland in eastern Turkey.

"Our problem is to ensure that our people are not left outside the country. We want them to return to their homes as soon as possible," he added.

Mr. Talabani has insisted he was not abandoning his allies, the Shiite Muslim factions that rebelled in southern Iraq. The tentative agreement is for greater democracy throughout Iraq.

But Shiite leaders reacted cautiously.

In Paris, a PDK spokesman called for the United Nations to guarantee the agreement with the Baghdad government.

"We aren't naive, we have no trust in (the Iraqi government)," PDK spokesman in Paris Jaffar Guly told the French daily newspaper *Le Quotidien de Paris*.

U.N. delays

(Continued from page 1)

mittee, Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner of Austria. Iraqi U.N. Representative Abdul Amir Al Anbari said his country wanted sanctions on the sale of Iraqi oil used to raise money to buy food and other civilian items needed over the next four months.

In Vienna, an Iraqi diplomat said Friday he expected Baghdad to comply with the United Nations request for more detailed information on its stocks of nuclear material.

Matoq Al Matoq, scientific counsellor at Iraq's Vienna embassy, said in response to queries that he saw "no problem" in meeting the request though it would probably take some time.

"They need more details... there is no problem. Communications is the problem," Mr. Matoq said. Allied air raids destroyed Iraqi communications systems in the Gulf war.

The U.N. oil resolution required Baghdad to inform the U.N.'s Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its nuclear capacity.

Baghdad and its people living a nightmare

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

BY ALL accounts Baghdad is quiet and empty in comparison with the foreign ministers of Italy, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

In his comments, Mr. Bush did not elaborate on what Mr. Baker had accomplished during his trip. "He (Mr. Baker) has made progress. I've just talked to him," the president told reporters after a tree-planting ceremony on the White House South Lawn.

After the announcement of Mr. Baker's departure, Palestinian leaders released a copy of a letter they had delivered to the U.S. consulate for their meeting with the secretary of state.

The letter said those who had been scheduled to meet with Mr. Baker later Friday were requested to take part by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Palestinians' letter complained about the two new Jewish settlements that Israel started in the occupied West Bank during Mr. Baker's peace shuttle.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Shamir decided to continue the talks at a later date, but set no specific time. "This, of course is not the end of his mission," Mr. Pazner said.

Mr. Pazner quoted Mr. Shamir as saying that Israel "shared in the sorrow" of Mr. Baker and his family.

Hanan Ashrawi, one of the Palestinians who was to have met with Mr. Baker, said the delegation was "deeply grieved" to hear of the death.

"We understand it is painful for the family and we understand he should be with his family," said Ms. Ashrawi, a West Bank professor.

The secretary's mother was pronounced dead on arrival at a Houston, Texas, hospital early Friday morning. She apparently suffered a heart attack, said a hospital spokeswoman.

to luxury items.

Shopkeepers come to work each day more for something to do than for business. And strapped without a postal system, telephones, telex and fax facilities, office work is at a standstill.

Rashid Street was, until the outbreak of hostilities, a thronging shopping area. People filled the pavements, cars clogged the road. It used to be an offence warranting a fine to cross the road rather than use the subway.

Now, fuel is rationed and expensive, spare parts for cars have been exhausted for repairs and the streets are easy to cross as traffic has been reduced to a trickle.

Windscreen wipers were under the international embargo imposed against Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and many vehicles have cracked or no windscreens. Some are held together by tape.

People stand along the side of the roads going out of the city centre to the suburbs waiting for some kind of transport. Buses cooperate with taxis, tractors pulling trailers, trucks and lorries to move people around.

One common sight is cars being pushed to the nearest petrol station to join the queue for a fill up.

Iraq's capital is a bargain-hunter's paradise. Electrical goods, camera equipment, oriental rugs, and clothes are all cheaper than in the West and prices sometimes beat those of Hong Kong.

Shopkeepers and well-off Iraqis, however, are frequently the only customers as wages for the average citizen do not permit frivolity when it comes

Electric power is gradually being restored. Work is underway 24 hours a day to repair or reconstruct essential amenities and extend them to the whole of Iraq as quickly as possible.

Without electricity water cannot be pumped. It has to be fetched from a hydrant, the river and even puddles. Sewage is not being properly treated and is going straight into the river to mix with water used for cooking and drinking.

Hospitals are increasingly reporting cases of severe diarrhoea and cases of cholera in children have recently been diagnosed.

The extent of severe illness and disease in children and babies is hard to judge as doctors are only too well aware that many parents are unable to bring their children for treatment as transport all but impossible for those living in the suburbs.

Doctors at Alwiyeh Children's Hospital have been working up to 22 hours a day in far from ideal conditions since the war started.

Eighteen out of 20 babies born on the first night of the war died due to the cold — no power meant no heat.

For sick premature infants the future is bleak, but thankfully short. Two rooms in Alwiyeh hospital house incubators. They are unplugged and will stand idle until power comes back to this part of Baghdad.

Health is the main worry as the hot weather approaches. In summer the temperature averages 50°C creating ideal conditions for bacterial growth.

Doctors treating children for severe diarrhoea are reluctant to discharge them once they



Irqi children who survived the allied bombardment now face the threat of epidemics (photo by William Brown)

years of a child's life causes stunted growth, reduced learning capabilities, even brain damage and impaired sight.

Walking around various

wards, the story becomes all too familiar. Sickness was not affecting only the offspring of poor less educated families, but all strata of society.

Six-month-old babies emaciated through diarrhoea weigh less than when they were born. Some will survive but the damage caused by malnutrition during the first two

years of a child's life causes stunted growth, reduced learning capabilities, even brain damage and impaired sight. Doctors in Iraq throughout the war reported a doubling in the number of miscarriages and premature births. They see this as a result of stress due to the war.

Stress leads to hormone imbalance which, in pregnancy can cause contractions leading to premature birth-giving. Stress can also make breast

milk dry up forcing mothers to bottle-feed their children. After the baby milk factory was destroyed infant formula was rationed to three 450-gramme tins per month. Ten are needed. Clean water is also vital.

Infant formula is still in short supply and demand has pushed the price up. The Abu Ghraib factory produced 80 per cent of Iraq's domestic needs. It was the only such plant in the country.

The writer has just returned from a three-week stay in Baghdad

الجمعية العلمية الملكية

اعلان صادر عن الجمعية العلمية

الملكية رقم EEC ٣٢٩٩

TENDER NO. EEC 3299
THE ROYAL SCIENTIFIC
SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 925819
AMMAN — JORDAN

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) announces Tender No. EEC 3299 for the delivery of laboratory equipment, and chemicals as a part of the execution of agreement No. 106/JO, project No. SEM/02/628/033, between the Royal Scientific Society and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), financed by the CEC.

- Copies of the Tender documents can be obtained free of charge from the Director of the Administrative Dept., Chairman of the Tender Committee, at the Royal Scientific Society during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) daily except for Thursdays and Fridays.
- Tenders should be submitted to the Chairman of the Tender Committee at RSS before 10:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday June 11th, 1991.

President

تعلن الجمعية العلمية الملكية عن طرح العطاء رقم EEC ٣٢٩٩ المتضمن توريد اجهزة مختبرات وكمبيوترات وذلك تنفيذاً لاتفاقية رقم JO/106/SEM/02/628/033 الموقعة بين الجمعية العلمية الملكية والجامعة الاقتصادية الأوروبية والمملوقة من المجموعة المذكورة.

١- على الراغبين الاشتراك في العطاء مراجعة المدير الإداري - رئيس لجنة العطاءات في الجمعية لتسليم وثائق العطاء بجانب وذلك خلال ساعات الدوام الرسمي (ما بين الساعة ٨ - ٥ مساءً) عدا يومي الخميس والجمعة.

٢- آخر موعد لقبول العروض هو الساعة العاشرة صباح يوم الثلاثاء الواقع في ١١/٦/٩١ وتدعم هذه العطاءات في صندوق العطاءات بمكتب المدير الإداري في الجمعية من بـ ٩٢٥٨١٩ عمان.

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Unified Korean team continues winning streak in table tennis

CHIBA, Japan (AP) — The first unified North-South Korean sports team and England extended their winning streaks to four Friday in the men's team preliminary round of the 41st World Table Tennis Championships.

Korea beat Nigeria 3-0 and England beat Yugoslavia 3-1 to share the lead in Group A.

Korea is fielding a unified team at an international sports meet for the first time since the Korean peninsula was divided into the Communist North and the South in 1945.

Sweden, the defending men's team champion, overcoming their first defeat Thursday, collected

their third victory against one defeat, beating Belgium 3-1.

Yugoslavia beat Sweden 3-0.

Friday, Yugoslavia also is 3-1.

China and Poland led Group B with four victories. China beat Hungary 3-1 while Poland defeated the Netherlands 3-1.

Germany is 3-1 after blanking Czechoslovakia 3-0.

In the women's team events, China, seeking its ninth straight team championship, was atop Group A.

China beat the Soviet Union 3-0 for its fifth victory.

Hungary was second at 4-1, followed by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia at 3-2 each in Group A. Hungary beat Yugoslavia

via 3-0, Czechoslovakia downed England 3-0 and the Soviet Union lost 0-3 to China.

With five victories, Korea and Hong shared the lead in the women's Group B.

Korea beat Sweden 3-0 and Hong Kong beat the United States 3-0.

The United States is 0-5. Japan is 4-1 after edging the Netherlands 3-2. France is 3-2, beating Romania 3-1.

A total of 16 preliminary matches were scheduled for later Friday.

Groups A and B have eight teams each. After the preliminaries,

the top six teams plus the top two teams from lower groups move up for the final round starting Saturday.

The 13-day tournament is hosting players from 109 countries.

The Swedes were unhappy with some aspects of their performance.

"We still have not got it right," admitted coach Anders Thunstrom.

England coach Don Parker said: "We are delighted to be unbeaten at this stage. The win over Yugoslavia should mean we will finish in the top four in the group which should give us an easier first round match."

Patrese ready to prove experience really counts

IMOLA, Italy (R) — Riccardo Patrese, the unofficial "senior citizen" of the Formula One circuit, says his age can be something of an advantage on the race track.

The Italian, subjected to some good-natured jokes in the paddock, celebrated his 37th birthday while testing for Williams at Imola last week ahead of the San Marino Grand Prix.

He was baked a giant cake and leaped on the shoulders of the other drivers to take the weight off his legs.

But, as Patrese looked ahead to the 211th Grand Prix start of his career at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari Sunday, he was unconcerned about the recent books and his age.

The latter, he says, is an advantage to him and to British team mate Nigel Mansell, who, at 36, is another F1 veteran.

Formula One is an increasingly complex science. Each team's garages are full of computers these days. Experience, then, is indispensable to anyone who wants to understand all the parameters, in F1," he said.

"The six drivers who won races last year were all over 30 and that is no accident. The only danger with age is the loss of motivation."

"I am in peak physical condition. I drive one of the best cars in the field. I feel I have never been closer to achieving my dream of becoming world champion. In those circumstances, I just don't see how I could possibly lose my motivation."

Twelve months ago, Patrese, who commands respect and affection and emotional his colleagues and in Italy, pulled off the most spectacular and emotional triumph of his long career when he won the 1990 San Marino Prix at Imola.

Auriol, currently sixth after a disappointing start this season, badly needs a win to stay in the race for the title. "You need a lot of experience to do well on these roads," he said. "Sainz will be my most dangerous opponent."

French hope Francois Delecour, the revelation of this year's Monte Carlo Rally, said he was determined to win.

"I would like to consolidate after doing well in Monte Carlo, even if Didier will start as hot favourite," said Delecour, who finished third in the winter classic, his first World Championship race.

He was leading before the last timed stage but, with victory in sight, suffered mechanical trouble and the anguish of seeing Sainz and Biasion pass to take first and second places.

Some 10s cars start out on the Corsica tour, which includes 625 kilometres of timed stages.

Among the favourites will be Corsican Yves Loubet in a Lancia, starting for the 14th time. Loubet knows the route by heart and has often led the provisional standings in previous years without ever being able to win in front of his home fans.

"It was a day I had waited a long time for. I hadn't had a victory in Formula One since the 1983 South African Grand Prix, seven years before. As a bonus, I was lucky enough to win at Imola in front of my home crowd."

"Imola, in a way, is my track. I live in Padua, just 140 kilometres away, and it is also one of my three favourite circuits with Spa and Suzuka."

"And of course I also wanted revenge on Imola last year. In 1985, I went off four laps from the end while in the lead. That is the sort of thing a driver doesn't easily forget."

"So last year at Imola I felt I

was the United States past Mexico in a surprising tough first round tie in Mexico City last month."

"If it had been me with somebody like (Rickey) Reneberg or (David) Wheaton the Spanish could say maybe we have a shot," Gilbert said. "Now with me and Mac, they've got to cringe a little."

French launch America's Cup challenge boat

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — The French syndicate Le Defi Francais officially launched their new America's Cup class yacht Ville De Paris in San Diego Bay Thursday and began testing for next month's World Championships.

The French challenger will be one of nine boats from six nations competing in the May 4-11 championships that will serve as a prelude to next year's America's Cup and provide the first real test of the new America's Cup class yachts under race conditions.

The 75-foot (23-metre) Ville de Paris arrived in San Diego last Thursday aboard a giant Soviet Antonov 124 cargo plane — a late delivery that fuelled speculation that the French might not be ready in time for the championships.

The French syndicate have sold their second boat to the American Defence Syndicate, but Marc Pajot, 37-year-old skipper of the Ville de Paris, said they plan to use the smaller boat to give his crew match racing experience prior to the championships.

The new class of yachts will have a crew of 16 and a 17th place

for an honorary guest crew member.

Asked who will be invited to fill the 17th position, a confident Pajot said: "We have chosen as our racing guest a representative of the town of Sete — the town where the America's Cup will be run once the French team has won it."

Spain joins cup fray

Meanwhile Spain will compete in the international America's Cup class world championships next month in a boat borrowed from New Zealand, the America's Cup Organizing Committee (ACOC) announced Tuesday.

The Spanish Challenge Syndicate, Desafio Espana, successfully negotiated the deal to borrow one of New Zealand's three new America's Cup class boats after their own programme suffered a serious setback earlier this year when the keel of their yacht broke off during trials in Spain.

Desafio Espana's second boat will not be completed in time for the World Championships.

"We are pleased to add Spain, a first-time cup challenger, to the

first competition for the international America's Cup class," said Tom Elman, ACOC executive vice-president and general manager.

Before the deal could be finalised, however, the two syndicates had to secure permission from the

U.S. State Department, as well as the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services. New Zealand brought its three boats into U.S. waters under a temporary importation bond under which they could not be chartered to other interests without official exemption.

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"I don't believe it," he said. "I haven't been able to do anything. It's been ages since I had so many problems before a rally."

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"And of course I also wanted revenge on Imola last year. In 1985, I went off four laps from the end while in the lead. That is the sort of thing a driver doesn't easily forget."

"So last year at Imola I felt I

was reaping the reward for all the work I've put in during my career to get back to the top while I wasn't driving as competitive a car as the Williams."

Patrese believes he has his best chance of a genuine challenge for the drivers' title this year in the new Williams FW14, equipped with semi-automatic transmission. But, he says, it does not save him much time in gear changes.

"If it does, it is hardly noticeable," he said.

"On the other hand you have better control of the car as you have both hands on the wheel all the time. And you can change gear in the middle of a corner which is a risky thing to do with a manual gearbox. It really is the way to go."

And his record 210 Grand Prix starts?

"Let me be perfectly honest about this," he said. "It really does not mean a lot to me. I'll think about all these sort of records when I look back over my FI years at the end of my career. But that day is not here yet."

"I don't come into F1 with thoughts of beating the record number of Grand Prix starts, but to be world champion and 14 years on I have not changed."

"So 210 Grands Prix today, 211 tomorrow. It really does not matter to me. I see no particular cause for pride in having spent 14 years in Formula One."

"But what I am proud of is that today I drive for one of the best three teams in the field."

"That is what matters to me."

Nigel Mansell, another Formula One veteran

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Gascoigne transfer not imminent

ROME (R) — Italian first division club Lazio denied Friday they were on the point of signing England's Paul Gascoigne. "We're not close to a signature. It won't be today," Lazio's sports director Carlo Regalia said. Asked whether directors of Gascoigne's London club Tottenham were in Rome, Regalia said: "I have no idea. So much has been said about this (transfer), that it's on, that it's off. We would rather not talk about it," he said. The Roman club, midway down the Italian first division, offered Tottenham 16 million lire (\$15 million) for the midfielder last month.

Gillespie pulls out of Scotland squad

LONDON (R) — Liverpool defender Gary Gillespie has pulled out of Scotland's European Championship Group 2 soccer qualifier in San Marino next week. Gillespie, restored to the Liverpool side since Graeme Souness succeeded Kenny Dalglish as manager, has a hamstring injury. The 30-year-old defender, who has won just 13 caps due to a succession of injury problems, has played only once for Scotland this season.

French AGS team sold

IMOLA, Italy (R) — The French AGS Formula One motor racing team has been taken over by Italians Patrizio Cantu and Gabriele Rafaelli and Stefan Hohansson replaced as the second driver. The team had been struggling financially this season and had gone into voluntary receivership in France only two weeks ago by former owner Cyril De Rouvre. A statement from the team said: Cantu and Rafaelli had bought a majority of the shares with immediate effect and were in charge of the team for this weekend's San Marino Grand Prix. As a result of the takeover, Swedish driver Stefan Johansson has been dropped by the team after only two races. His place is taken by Italian Fabrizio Barbazza, 28, a former Italian Formula Three favourite from Milan who has also competed in Indy-car racing in the United States.

Manchester selected as Olympic candidate

LONDON (R) — Manchester was selected as Britain's candidate to host the 2,000 Olympics. The British Olympic Association voted unanimously in favour of Manchester after hearing final submissions from that city and from London. Other declared bids, for the games have come from Sydney, Peking and Berlin. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will make its decision on the host city in Monte Carlo in September 1993.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH MIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦J7 ♦KQ9872 ♦AJ93 ♦6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦J7 ♦KQ9872 ♦AJ93 ♦6
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦Q3 ♦AQ1084 ♦AQ8 ♦AQ6
The bidding has proceeded:

Bad luck dogs Sainz in warm-up for Corsica Rally

second and third in this season's standings. Neither feels at ease on the fast Corsican roads.

After four events, the positions in the World Rally Championship are tight with just two points separating Sainz and Kankkunen. The same goes for the constructors' standings, where Toyota have a three-point advantage over Lancia.

The Spaniard, who failed to finish for the first time in more than a year when mechanical problems forced him out of the recent Safari Rally, blew an engine three times as he tried to reconnoitre the route.

"I don't believe it," he said. "I haven't been able to do anything. It's been ages since I had so many problems before a rally."

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McEnroe boosts U.S. squad

NEW YORK (R) — American Davis Cup team members have said that the addition of John McEnroe virtually eliminated any chance that Spain might upset the defending champions in their quarter-final tie in June.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, April 25, 1991		Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	682.0	686.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	404.0	497.0
Pound Sterling	1156.0	1162.9	Dutch guilder	346.0	348.1
Deutschmark	389.7	392.0	Swedish crown	102.5	110.4
Swiss franc	464.9	467.7	Italian lire (for 100)	52.9	53.2
French franc	115.6	116.3	Belgian franc (for 10)	189.5	190.6

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:			
	April 20-24	April 6-10	
Daily average	JD 2,566,074	JD 965,524	
Total volume	JD 12,830,368	JD 4,227,618	
Total shares	7,325,591	2,530,481	
No. Of contracts	7,013	3,662	
Sectoral trading:			
Industrial	JD 8,915,456	JD 3,159,738	
Financial	JD 2,040,591	JD 800,446	
Service	(69.5%)	(18.5%)	
Insurance	(15.9%)	(7.7%)	
Share price index	(1.0%)	(0.8%)	
No. of companies	134.3	129.8	
Price movement (rise)	65	68	
(Decile)	49	23	
(stable)	18	39	
	6	6	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.6872/82	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1514/19	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilder
	1.7510/17	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	1.9650/60	French francs	Italian lire
	1.4728/35	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	35.89/98	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	5.9020/70	U.S. dollars	
1291/1292			
137.95/138.05			
6.2375/25			
6.8020/70			
6.6850/6900			
One ounce of gold	354.00/354.50		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed firmer after sluggish trade. The Nikkei was up 84.82 points at 26,123.68.			
SYDNEY — Support from U.S. investors, based on hopes of lower inflation, boosted the All Ordinaries index 19.4 points to 157.8, its highest close since August.			
HONG KONG — Prices ended higher, mostly on the strength of Cheung Kong covered warrants. The Hang Seng index gained 31.42 points to finish at 3,625.80.			
SINGAPORE — Profit-taking alternated with bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrials gained 4.47 points to 1,558.41.			
BOMBAY — A bullish start to the new account triggered profit-taking. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 9.95 to 1,286.59.			
FRANKFURT — The Dax index gained 3.36 points to 1,623.81, up for the third day in a row. During the day it touched a 1991 high of 1,632.47. Dealers said market sentiment was good and expected prices to rise further next week.			
ZURICH — Several first-quarter reports and a speech by Swiss National Bank President Markus Lusser failed to enliven a slow market. The SPT index lost 2.9 points to 1,076.			
PARIS — Favourable ratings by at least three stockbrokers stirred interest in tyre maker Michelin which gained 7.50 francs to 91.60 in extraordinary volume. Other trade was listless. The CAC-40 index lost 2.34 points to 1,774.67.			
LONDON — The FTSE index lost 10.8 to 2,471.3, April's lowest close. Pessimism focussed on the weekend G-7 meeting and Thursday's local council elections.			
NEW YORK — U.S. stocks are in a consolidation phase. Analysts expect no break out until the Fed eases interest rates or the economy is clearly recovering. At 1553 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were down 0.5 to 2,920.54.			

U.S. audit said to dispute value of bank insurance fund

NEW YORK (R) — The senior U.S. auditor has found that the fund that protects bank deposits is in worse shape than has been reported and may be worth only about half of the \$8.4 billion regulators had calculated, the New York Times has reported.

The newspaper quoted William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), who said the General Accounting Office (GAO) annual audit of the fund would show it might be worth only about \$4 to \$5 billion.

Seidman said the FDIC had tried to persuade the GAO auditors to revise their results, the Times said.

The Times quoted Seidman as saying the GAO figures could add a significant impetus to Congress to act more quickly to address the problems of the fund and the U.S. banking industry.

India to hold international trade fair in November

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The Eleventh India International Trade Fair (IITF) will be held from Nov. 14-24, 1991 in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

An analysis of the last IITF held in 1990 indicated that the fair attracted 50,000 business visitors. The visitors included presidents and vice presidents of organisations, managing partners and managing directors, proprietors, opinion makers, general managers of different disciplines, export personnel, marketing personnel, plant technicians and representatives of government and financial institutions.

In addition, there were 2.5 million general visitors. 76 per cent of the exhibitors in the last fair felt that they had attained their objectives. 72 per cent were satisfied with the quality of exhibition arrangements, 86 per cent of the exhibitors wished to come back for a repeat participation in IITF'91.

The IITF has turned out as a centre not only for the spot business but also as a place where national and international buyers and sellers and representatives of business organisations from all over the world interact and draw up long term business plans.

As a source for the supply of a wide range of products and services, the fair provides a cost-effective forum for launching new products, identifying new areas of economic cooperation, industrial collaboration and joint ventures especially amongst the developing countries.

A series of seminars on technical and commercial subjects are planned during the fair to provide interaction.

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ABC report shows rise in Arab oil, condensate production last year

By P.V. Vivekamand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Weeks of intense contacts and intervention by the Ministry of Labour have resulted in agreement by Kuwaiti banks to allow withdrawals and transfers to Jordan of up to 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars every month by Jordanians and Palestinians who left the emirate after the Iraqi invasion on Aug. 2.

"We have received instructions from the National Bank of Kuwait that withdrawals and foreign transfers of amounts up to 4,000 dinars per month per account are permitted," said a senior official at one of Jordan's leading banks. Withdrawals could be converted into any European currency and transferred to Jordanian banks, he added.

The National Bank of Kuwait, which also appears to be acting as a clearing house for several other banks in the emirate, has devised a special system under which Jordanian and Palestinian account holders have to fill up withdrawal applications through Jordanian banks, the official said.

"If some or all of the new capacity is eventually to be shut down, an immediate concern of the Saudi authorities will be recovering the costs of adding this capacity," the report said.

"Consequently, this consideration will have an important influence on the country's oil production in the near future making it likely that second half of 1990 output levels will be maintained," it added.

Saudi Arabia has nearly doubled its official OPEC quota to cover the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil production, estimated at four million b/d.

The report said Riyadh was not alone among Arab OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) countries to raise oil production to their highest levels in recent years.

It said the output of Algeria, Libya and Abu Dhabi emirates, in the United Arab Emirates, also rose by over 10 per cent during 1990.

"Syria (has) achieved a comparable rate of oil production growth while Tunisia saw a fall of seven per cent in its output," the report said.

"The overall result was, in any case, to increase the Arab World's share of world oil production to 27 per cent from 26 per cent in 1989," it concluded.

Gholamreza Aqaazadeh

WASHINGTON, USIA — The economic causes and effects of the Gulf crisis were discussed by a panel of economists during the annual Middle East conference of the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) at Georgetown University, held here recently.

Kidar said that based on his own fact-finding tour of Kuwait, "clearly the destruction is not confined to Kuwait's oil wells and refineries." Highways, ports, the airport, public buildings, hotels, privately owned factories and trading premises have also been extensively destroyed, he said.

According to Ibrahim Oweiss, associate professor of economics at Georgetown University, the total loss to Arab countries resulting from the Gulf war was \$438,000 million. His estimate, Oweiss said, was based on foreign trade sector data, several official sources, studies conducted by the United Nations, and his own interviews.

Oweiss stressed, however, that it is too early to evaluate the full economic impact of the Gulf crisis "since the scope of destruction is not yet known." He noted that the economies of countries outside the Gulf region, in Asia and East Europe, have also been affected by the crisis.

Oweiss participated in a panel discussion on "Oil, Economics and Business." The session chaired by Ibrahim Ibrahim, acting director of CCAS, also included Charles Ebinger, vice president of the International Resources Group and senior associate at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); and Nemir Kidar, president and chief executive officer of Investcorp Bank, of New York, London and Bahrain.

Kidar said Kuwait's massive reconstruction needs will provide a strong stimulus to economic activity. A further stimulus will come from the intention of the countries of the region to take on a greater responsibility for their own defence, Kidar said. "The creation of a regional security structure is a target, backed up by a substantial arms package from the U.S., Saudi Arabia is also expected to increase its own defence expenditure over the next few years."

He said the Arab Organisation

Expatriates' accounts cleared for limited transfers to Jordan

one of the officials.

At present, in view of sparse communications with Kuwait, banks have to depend on courier systems to get the documents across the emirate and the withdrawal and transfer process takes about two to three weeks, the official said.

"The time is expected to be shortened once direct communications are restored in Kuwait," he said.

All withdrawals and deposits in Kuwaiti bank accounts during the seven-month occupation of the emirate are totally disregarded, and banks deal with the account holder on the basis of balances in accounts at closing business hours on Aug. 1, 1990, the official said.

"We have received instructions from the National Bank of Kuwait that withdrawals and foreign transfers of amounts up to 4,000 dinars per month per account are permitted," said a senior official at one of Jordan's leading banks. Withdrawals could be converted into any European currency and transferred to Jordanian banks, he added.

The introduction of the system comes as a watershed for the tens of thousands of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have returned home almost penniless after being forced to leave behind their savings and deposit accounts in Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion.

Kuwaiti authorities permitted monthly withdrawals up to 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars from bank accounts four weeks after the end of the Gulf war and the return of the emir regime in early March, but the account holder or a duly authorised immediate family member had to be present in the emirate and transfers abroad were not permitted.

This had posed an insurmountable problem for many who left Kuwait with all their family members since Aug. 2, particularly that

for Industrialisation, a military manufacturing partnership between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, has also been revived and is expected to receive an infusion of funds from the Gulf states to manufacture weapons systems.

"All this suggests that the region is likely to witness a sustained burst of economic activity in the next few years," Kidar said.

The Gulf region is a major source of the world's oil and gas, he said, and "two thirds of the world's known oil resources are to be found in the region; this ensures, for as long as we can look into the future, substantial income and wealth in the Gulf."

Kidar said the war also inflicted extensive damage to the region's banking system. "All told, the flight of bank deposits from the Gulf amounted to at least \$20,000 million and was probably in excess of this," he said.

"What is required in the region is more investment banks," Kidar said, noting that investment banks have played a crucial role in the development of the United States, Britain, Japan and Europe. "It is clear that the Gulf requires the services of such institutions today," he said.

Asked about prospects for the rebuilding of Iraq, Kidar said that "the problem of Iraq's credit is not minor."

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Bomb explodes in Estonian capital, Communist Party building damaged

MOSCOW (AP) — A bomb exploded Friday near a Communist Party office in the secessionist Estonian Republic, damaging the building and nearby homes but causing no casualties, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported.

It was the fourth such attack this year in Estonian capital of Tallinn, TASS reported. Most of the others were aimed at Russian political and public organisations buildings, TASS said.

The explosion came a day after Soviet troops seized at least a dozen buildings in the neighbouring Baltic Republic of Lithuania, including technical schools, a clothing factory, a hotel and a sports complex, the Lithuanian parliament reported.

Troops left one of the buildings, a military recreation club run by Lithuania, at about 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) Friday, Simas Argudas, of the Parliament Press Office told the Associated Press by telephone. They vandalised the building and took equipment, Argudas said.

The troops said they were carrying out Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov's orders to guard the ministry's property, the independent Elta News Agency reported.

Argudas said he did not know the status of the other occupied buildings. No other injuries were reported, the parliament said.

Greek terrorists claim attack against strike breaking tugboat

ATHENS (AP) — Greece's deadliest terrorist group claimed responsibility for an explosion that sank a Greek tugboat Friday belonging to a company which has refused to participate in a port workers' strike.

Police said that an anonymous caller claiming to be a member of the urban November 17 terrorist organisation phoned the Athens daily Eleftherotypia to warn of the impending attack against the tugboat.

There were no crew members aboard the tugboat when the bomb exploded after midnight. The tugboat was tied up at a pier in Piraeus Harbour near Athens'

main port of Piraeus, a police official who asked for anonymity said.

Tugboat crews have been striking for higher pay and increased benefits on and off for the past month. The Karapiperis Company however, has refused to heed the strike call and continued to service merchant ships with their tugboats.

The elusive November 17 group has claimed responsibility for killing 16 people including U.S. embassy officials and prominent Greeks since 1975. It also bombed several private buses in February hired by the government to break a three-month

public bus company strike. No one was injured in those attacks.

It was the second terrorist attack in Greece within a week.

Seven people including six Greeks were killed last Friday by a powerful blast that ripped through the ground floor of a building in the southwestern port city of Patras. Police claim the seventh person, 26-year-old Palestinian student Ahmad Al Hashkeh, was killed when the bomb he was carrying went off prematurely.

Over 50 people including Palestinian students and Greeks have been taken in for questioning in the ongoing investigation.

Kidnapped French priest released in Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines (R) — A French Roman Catholic missionary held by kidnappers for 30 days was released unharmed in the southern Philippines Friday, a church spokesman said.

Father Yves Caroff, 66, looked thin and haggard after being held captive by a gang of kidnappers on the southern island of Mindanao.

"I am sorry I caused you all this trouble," he was quoted as telling a Filipino priest who met him as he was released. Caroff was on the verge of tears as he was handed over, the spokesman said.

Church officials said no ransom was paid.

Caroff, who had grown a beard during captivity, was freed close to a deadline set by the military for his release.

The military had threatened an assault against the hideout of the kidnappers, who have abducted 29 people, most of them Chinese-Filipino businessmen, since September.

The French priest was moved around the hills and remote town in Maguindanao province in the southern Philippines to prevent a rescue by troops, church and local officials said.

Caroff was visibly tired when released, the church spokesman said. He was taken to the Catholic-run Notre Dame Uni-

Sri Lankan troops break rebel siege of naval base, 32 die

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan government troops, using air and sea support, have broken a month-long siege by separatist Tamil rebels of an island naval base, killing 26 guerrillas in a day of fighting, military sources said Friday.

At least two people are still being held by the gang, which is believed to number about 70 and is composed of former Muslim separatist rebels, bandits and dislodged soldiers.

Up to 12 million pesos (\$45,000) in ransom has been paid by wealthy families in the area to secure the freedom of people abducted by the gang, officials said.

Meanwhile suspected Muslim separatist rebels killed a government soldier, and unidentified gunmen seriously wounded a police captain in separate battles in the southern Philippines, police said Friday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been attacking security forces' bases constantly on the Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

Earlier this week they said that more than 1,000 rebels and 170 government troops had been killed over the past month or so during offensives launched by the government.

Defence Ministry Secretary Cyril Ranasinghe said Thursday an indefinite curfew had been imposed in Jaffna.

"We have had a rain of mortars fired into our camps," he told reporters.

The military sources said a large number of rebel bunkers were destroyed. Several vehicles, bags full of anti-personnel mines, rifle-grenades, ammunition and uniforms were captured after the siege was broken.

Security forces mounted a simultaneous offensive in nearby Kaye Island where an army detachment had come under regular rebel fire. Details of this operation were not available.

"The curfew is still on and the operations are continuing," a military officer said.

Karainagar is the main naval base for patrol boats trying to prevent Tigers smuggling men and arms across the narrow Falk Strait between Jaffna and south India.

PALMDALE, California (AP) — A new chapter of the U.S. space programme began Thursday with the unveiling of Endeavour, the space shuttle built to replace the ill-fated Challenger.

Endeavour joining Atlantis, Columbia and Discovery in the U.S. space shuttle fleet.

It is scheduled to soar into orbit in the spring of 1992. Although it looks almost exactly like the other shuttles, Endeavour incorporates all the improvements made after the loss of Challenger and its crew of seven on Jan. 28, 1986.

"It's the best vehicle yet," said Janet Dean, spokeswoman for Endeavour's maker, Rockwell International.

Endeavour was unveiled at a rollout ceremony Thursday be-

fore an audience of thousands of Rockwell and NASA employees at Air Force Plant 42, where all the shuttles were assembled.

The orbiter is the first new shuttle to enter the fleet since 1985 when Atlantis was completed. Former President Ronald Reagan authorised the replacement for Challenger in 1987.

Built at a cost of around \$2 billion, it may be the last of the stubby-winged space trucks. Although a seven-shuttle fleet was once envisioned, President George Bush's administration included no money for a fifth shuttle in its 1992 budget proposal.

Much of Endeavour was constructed from a set of structural spare parts that were ordered up in advance of the Challenger tragedy.

low lawmakers. "This is characteristic of the Soviet army."

Last Friday, Soviet troops, seized and shut down a Lithuanian customs post on the Baltic republic's border with Byelorussia.

In a separate development, strikers in the western republic of Byelorussia returned to work Friday, after Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to concessions with nine republics in exchange for a call to end crippling walkouts.

The Soviet president's chief

Vytautas Leibus as saying the soldier was shot in the head by a single bullet from a Kalashnikov automatic rifle. "It was an accident," he said, adding that it was unclear if the soldier shot himself or another soldier fired the shot.

Leibus said Soviet troops prevented Vilnius police from approaching the body and that the investigation would be carried out by military authorities.

Tensions have been running high in Lithuania since the January crackdown by Soviet troops in the Baltics, which left at least 22 dead. Troops have occupied buildings sporadically for about a year, trying to hamper Lithuania's drive for independence.

The radical newspaper Komosolskaya Pravda said Friday that Gorbachev "showed his maneuverability" at the session.

Thousands of workers in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk had been on strike since Tuesday, demanding the resignation of national and republican leaders and a special session of their legislature.

They suspended the strike Fri-

day until May 21, when the legislature's regular session begins, republic legislator and strike committee member Igor Geremchuk said by telephone from Minsk.

A labour federation called on its members throughout the Russian Republic to stage a one-hour strike Friday. But the group, a reconstituted Communist trade union, is regarded with suspicion by the miners and other labour activists.

Gorbachev Wednesday announced an agreement with nine republic chiefs, including Russia's Yeltsin, who represents by far the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Gorbachev promised new elections for both the Soviet parliament and presidency, and the republic leaders joined him in urging an end to strikes.

The agreement did not say whether the presidency would be filled in a popular election. Gorbachev has never faced the voters directly and, under the current constitution, would not have to do so until 1995.

Yeltsin — chairman of the presidium of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet — described the deal to Russian lawmakers Thursday as "a major victory" for the republics, TASS reported.

The agreement was a victory for Gorbachev, as he used it to bolster his defence against Communist Party hardliners who tried but failed Thursday to oust him from his position as the party's general secretary.

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Raytheon fires back in defence of Patriot missile

BOSTON (R) — Raytheon has rushed the defence of its Patriot missile, saying that recent criticism had unfairly tarnished the reputation of what was once heralded as the star of the once

prematurely.

The Lexington, Massachusetts, company, America's fifth-largest defence contractor, said it felt compelled to respond to criticism of the Patriot, its largest single programme for the past two years providing a total of \$2.5 billion in revenues.

During the Gulf war, the Patriot was widely hailed for its alleged ability to knock Iraqi Scud missiles from the skies.

In recent weeks, however, it has been criticised for causing as much or more damage than a Scud, as debris from both missiles came to earth.

Raytheon said testimony before Congress, editorials in major newspapers and news articles along this line had "unfairly denigrated" the Patriot and its crews, adding that much of the criticism "has been raised by people with other agendas."

The fact is that the Patriot performed extremely well," Raytheon said, asserting a nearly 90 per cent success rate in destroying Scuds fired at Saudi Arabian targets and an approximately 50 per cent success rate in Israel.

Security forces also captured a vital causeway, Poonalai, that links Karaitivu with mainland Jaffna, the stronghold of the separatists who are fighting for an independent homeland.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been attacking security forces' bases constantly on the Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

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Nelson Mandela

Khmer Rouge agrees to temporary ceasefire

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's largest guerrilla group, the Communist Khmer Rouge, Friday became the last rebel force to agree to a temporary truce beginning May 1 in the 12-year-old war against the Vietnamese-installed government.

The proposal had been

accepted by Vietnam, the

and the two non-Communist

groups allied with the Khmer Rouge — the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

"We accept the call ... and we hope Vietnam will abide by the call," Khmer Rouge leader Khuon Samphan said after he and leaders of the two other groups met in Bangkok Friday with Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun.

Fighting has died down with the start of the rainy season in April.

During the dry season, govern-

ment forces backed by helicopter gunships tried to retake positions in the west lost since a major

Vietnamese troops withdrawal from Cambodia in September 1979. The guerrillas used artillery and tanks for the first time.

Meanwhile thousands of Cambodians who fled govern-

ment helicopter gunship attacks on Khmer Rouge zones are stranded along the Thai frontier with little food, medicine and shelter, Western aid officials said.

The truce is designed to facil-

itate the talks, which will focus on the Vietnamese-installed government's objections to a U.N. Security Council peace plan. The guerrillas have fully accepted the

plan, under which the United Nations would be extensively involved in the country's civil and military affairs in the period before elections.

In further efforts to ease the

way for the talks, Anand met with the guerrilla leaders Friday and will meet Sunday in Bangkok with Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Cambodian government. Hun Sen currently is in Tokyo for medical tests.

Hun Sen's government has in-

sisted, among other demands,

that the U.N. plan include spec-

ific measures to prevent the return

to power of the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge massacred

hundreds of thousands of people

with radical agrarian policies

when it ruled Cambodia from

1975 until Vietnam invaded in

late 1978 and installed another

Communist government.

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from Cambodia in September 1979. The guerrillas used artillery and tanks for the first time.

Meanwhile thousands of Cambodians who fled govern-

ment helicopter gunship attacks on Khmer Rouge zones are stranded along the Thai frontier with little food, medicine and shelter, Western aid officials said.

About 15,000 to 20,000 people

have fled to the border along

Thailand's Trat Province since

fighting flared late last year in

western